1 2	3	4
11. Indore	1.11	208
12. Mumbai	12.60	272
13. Nagpur	1.66	158
14. Pune	2.49	241
15. Liidhiana	1.04	175
16. Jaipur	1.52	195
17. Coimbatore	1.10	104
18. Chennai	5.42	81
19. Madurai	1.08	74
20. Kanpur	2.03	200
21. Lucknow	1.67	252
22. Varanasi	1.03	215
23. Kolkata	11.02	200
Total	70.61	214

Source: CPCB Rreport, August 1997.

Delay in judicial process

*205.SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned, "20 years in prison sans trial", which appeared in the News Time, dated 5th July, 2002;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problem of inordinate delay in judicial process as highlighted in the report?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

Both the Government and the judiciary are concerned with the plight of undertrials in Jails. The governments of Punjab and Haryana have been requested to take necessary action in this regard.

(c) The Government has endeavoured constantly to bring about improvements in the functioning of courts and simplify procedures for ensuring speedy justice. The measures taken by the Govt, include setting up of Fast Track Courts, periodical revision of Judge strength, grants-in-aid to the States for improvement in judicial infrastructure and for the use of information technology in courts, etc.

The problem of delays in judicial process is also being examined, *inter alia,* the Justice Malimath committee set up to suggest reforms in the criminal justice system.

Exorbitant charging by private blood banks

† *206. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private blood banks in the country are charging exorbitant price from patients;

(b) if so. whether Government are considering to take any action to keep a check on such blood banks and prevent them from doing so; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (c) Selling of Whole Human Blood is prohibited and, therefore, no blood bank can charge any price for blood itserf. However, before the blood is issued by the blood-banks for-transfusion, it is mandatory under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules to test each unit of blood collected for freedom from HIV 1 .& 2 antibodies, Hepatitis B Surface antigen, Hepatitis C antibody, Malaria and Syphilis. Some expenditure is incurred by the blood banks for conducting these mandatory test for transfusion transmitted diseases and for handling of blood. This expenditure has been estimated to be about Rs. 500/- and is recovered from the patients as service charges by the blood banks.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.